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On Finding a Home, and Classism

by Sarah Christina

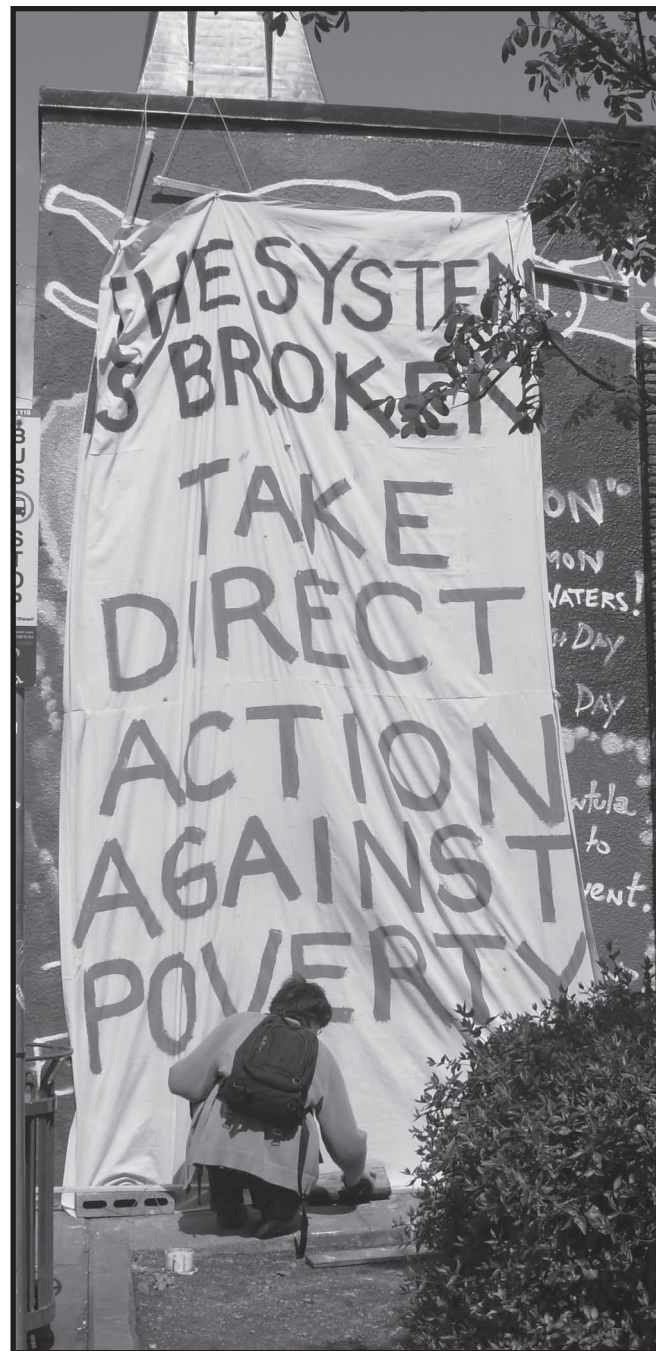
At the moment my toddler (2) and I and our lovely friends are currently living in a beautiful home with a low rent (especially for the city in which we live). We have always known it was temporary. We will have been here for a year and two months when we move; the house was sold.

Our current landlord quickly had a new place that seemed highly promising. After admiring the nearby dwelling many times while intentionally walking by it, we were all pretty excited about the potential of this future community space. We could do so much good in a home like this. Large, a yard, relatively quiet area yet accessible, and for the same price we currently pay. And so, we didn't bother to look for a new home as, though we had not yet been given the opportunity to look inside, we were all pretty sure this was the one.

This morning I called the landlord to arrange for us to see the place--at last the time had come. Yet it would never be. Apparently the men who had lived there had a cat, maybe a herd of them. He told me that to walk into the place was disgusting for the saturated stench of cat urine, a smell they thought before trying they could remove. He assured me that he would not want his child to live there, and surely I would not want mine to either. Disappointed, I agreed.

And now I am experiencing the jolt back into the world where rent is ridiculously jacked and inhumane. We had a good thing going with our rent, comparatively. Not only that, being in one place for this long has affected me. I have never lived in one place for more than a few months since leaving my home with my parents, even with a new baby I was constantly moving around.

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About *Street Newz*

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Founded in 2004,
Victoria Street Newz welcomes written submissions including personal stories, interviews, event reviews, cartoons, poetry, photographs, or artwork, but we can't guarantee everything will be published. We reserve the right to edit, and will not print anything libelous, racist, sexist, or homophobic. Letters sent to the editor are assumed to be for publication, must include phone number or email (if possible, for confirmation) and may be edited for length. You can publish using a pseudonym, or anonymously.

We are devoted to a triple bottom line philosophy - concerned about our environmental and social, as well as financial, well-being.

You can contribute to social change by supporting the *Victoria Street Newz* team, by pondering the root causes of poverty, and by working for peaceful, non-violent change.

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just another rant

janinebandcroft.blogspot.com



In April I had an opportunity to celebrate my dear friend Jay's 50th birthday. Fifty! Who'd have imagined, when we were young and carefree 20 somethings working in the newly evolving world of computers and software, that we'd one day be middle aged and still alive on this planet!

Way back in the 80s I knew about nuclear weapons, but not the peace activists. I was blissfully unaware, focused on earning the paycheque and making it to the next weekend. My survival tactic was to resign myself to the fact that the planet could be blown up several times over at any moment. And then Mikhail Gorbachev appeared on the scene and it seemed like there was cause for hope. Another good reason to party - we're here for a good time, and maybe a long time too!

Upon reflection, those were some good old days. My tech support job was intellectually challenging and I got to help people, the folks I worked with had become my extended family, I had my own little apartment near the beach in Kitsilano. But still, I felt there was something missing, something about life on this planet that I just didn't "get." So, when the little start-up software company I worked with became enormously successful and was sold to a huge international corporation, and I became just another cog in the wheel, I took my little savings account and went to college.

By the time I got to the U of Victoria in 1990 I had a basic understanding of social justice and environmental processes. Learning about the history of Central America, how the United Fruit Company had stolen land and forced people to produce export crops rather than grow their own food, and living in the US during the Reagan/Bush Contra War years had charged me with a deep understanding of corporate/government collusion, injustice, and a deep commitment to environmentalism.

Student activists at UVic were focused on keeping Mystic Vale from being turned into condominiums. We petitioned students and the community, got professors and administrators involved, and finally succeeded in maintaining the magnificent rainforest canyon as a living laboratory for biology students, a beautiful place of respite for dog walkers and sanctuary seekers.

Since then I've watched, despite all our efforts, the destruction of Cunningham Woods, outrageous tuition increases, guerrilla gardens twice ruined and, in the wider community, nearly all

social services, along with much ancient rainforest and most recently funding for the arts, disappeared. Housing prices have gone through the roof - just 10 short years ago a decent room could easily be found for about \$350 a month, it wasn't difficult to survive. It's tough not to sink into deep and dark depression, but I remain hopeful that Victoria's colourful and creative progressive community will be able to continue supporting one another through these challenging times.

Sharing in my friend's 50th birthday celebration, and reacquainting myself with his friends, I remembered my first experience with direct action planning (at an ACT UP meeting in Seattle), and how many we've lost to HIV/AIDS. Jay's birthday celebrations were put on hold as we watched TV news announcements of the historic health care reform approval, and I wondered whether their relief and hope for a more compassionate structural approach will translate into saved lives, into real treatment for HIV/AIDS or HEP C or other health challenges, or if it'll just be another cash bonanza for the insurance corporations.

I also momentarily wondered if I've made the right life decisions. I have no RRSPs, no retirement plan, no extended health plan or pension. I work longer hours than ever, taking odd jobs here and there to support my activism, my cash flow mostly uncertain. But you know what? I wouldn't change a thing. I'm living life with eyes wide open. Maybe I'll end up poor and infirm, stuffed into a corner of some dirty and abusive old age home because I can't afford anything other, but at least I'll have my memories. I'll be able to reflect on what I did to support the forest defenders, the guerrilla gardeners, the human rights and social justice and peace activists. Of course they'll likely be stuffed into the other corners of the dirty and abusive old age home or maybe, if we're really lucky, we'll all have adjoining cells at Guantanamo Bay.

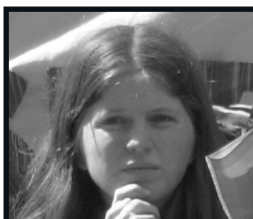
Of course it's still possible that the world will end tomorrow. Either way, Happy 50th Birthday, Jay! What a long, strange trip it's been.

On Finding a Home continued from cover

Now that I am comfortable to commit myself to one place, to feel confident that I am where I am supposed to be, to be determined to work through complications rather than running from them, now that I have achieved this, I must search for a new home because the one in which I live has been sold by an owner who has never lived a day in it, who rented it out to us the day after purchasing it.

One aim in creating a community support network is to create free/rent=non-compulsory housing. My plan for this is to locate some of the many uninhabited houses and buildings and confront the "owner" with my idea--for this person to allow us to utilize the space (free of charge or perhaps payment of land taxes) for housing while improving it through fixing it up, growing food, and filling it with good energy--making it alive while supporting a crucial project and need of the people!

If you're such an "owner," please contact me at fite4freedom@gmail.com.



NO EXIT

© Andy Singer

IN 1932, WE STILL HAD ABUNDANT OIL AND NATURAL RESOURCES. WE CONSUMED OUR WAY OUT OF THE DEPRESSION BY TURNING ALL THESE RESOURCES INTO WAR MATERIALS, CONSUMER GOODS, CARS, HIGHWAYS AND SUBURBAN SPRAWL.



WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ALTERNATIVE ENERGY AND PUBLIC TRANSIT, OUR INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS MUST BE IN **HUMAN CAPITAL**, NOT MORE HIGHWAYS!



TODAY WE FACE VASTLY DEPLETED NATURAL RESOURCES, POLLUTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE. THUS, UNLIKE 1932, WE MUST CREATE AN ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN WHICH WE CONSUME **LESS** OF THE PLANET.



HIRING MORE DOCTORS, NURSES, TEACHERS AND CHILD CARE WORKERS WILL IMPROVE PEOPLE'S LIVES WITHOUT USING UP PRECIOUS RESOURCES. UNLIKE CONSUMERISM, IT MIGHT ALSO BRING US CLOSER TOGETHER.



A Poverty Reduction Strategy for Victoria?

by Chris Johnson

I sit on an volunteer citizen advisory committee at Victoria city hall - the Community Development Public Advisory Committee. One of the things we've just been asked to advise council on is a motion put forward by Councillor Sonya Chandler regarding the possibility of a municipal poverty reduction strategy.

Council has yet to decide whether to draft a poverty reduction strategy, and the motion to create such a document has been forwarded to the Community Development Advisory Committee to advise council on. City staff have been asked to draft some kind of motion that the city will bring to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, which could take the form of a request that other councils support them in communicating the importance of a provincial poverty reduction plan to the BC government.

Victoria City Council is a signatory to an 'Open Letter to All British Columbia Political Parties,' entitled 'BC Needs a Poverty Reduction Plan with Legislated Targets and Timelines.' So Victoria City Council supports the idea of a provincial plan to reduce poverty. And now the next time that council has a priorities setting meeting, they will look at the possibility of creating their own municipal poverty reduction strategy.

I'm all in favour of council creating such a document. (As much as I am in favour of any government anything at all. Whether any settler government has authority in these territories is a whole other can of worms.) If you've followed my blog (bullsheet.wordpress.com) you'll know I have some rather strong opinions on poverty reduction. One of the things I can appreciate about a poverty reduction strategy is that it has the potential to be much more honest, pragmatic and realistic than something like a 10-year plan to End Homelessness.

I personally believe that you can't end homelessness without ending poverty. I also believe (and I am researching my hypothesis), that certain fundamental principles of capitalism preclude the elimination of poverty, thus making poverty and homelessness impossible to 'end' without completely changing the reality of politics on this planet.

I also don't believe that government is entirely responsible for poverty reduction. There are individuals, grassroots groups and non-governmental organizations that are working hard right now to build supports and build community while at the same time fighting to protect what little the state assistance system still provides.

The way I see my priorities as an anti-poverty activist is that I focus first on ways that we as a community can work together to reduce our poverty and our dependence on government programs. That's why I'm involved with the Autonomous Community

Support Network (communitysupport.wikidot.com), with which we are working to bring together community members to network existing resources, build capacity to create more community self-sufficiency and help create some alternatives to the government programs which have never been sufficient to meet our needs.

The next priority is where the government comes into the equation. There are policies, laws, bylaws and programs that create poverty and criminalize some of the things we could be doing to reduce poverty. These include city bylaws against sheltering oneself, as well as zoning bylaws that prohibit no more than 4 people to a house, or which prohibit secondary dwellings on a property. We need to fight these and other things and demand that government step out of the way and let us take control of our own affairs. When we've done those things and we determine what it is we are able to do for ourselves and what we need a government to do for us, then we bring our demands to the governments and have them create the programs that our community needs.

A municipal poverty reduction strategy is thus lowest on my priorities in terms of taking action to reduce poverty in my community. Which is not to say that such a document, if it contains the right set of legislated targets and timelines, could bring about great change.

If we have the time we should put together some kind of meeting or event where we can, as a grassroots network/coalition of the poor and anti-poverty community, come up with some recommendations to city council for what we think should be in a poverty reduction plan. I can then bring it forward to the advisory committee, and see if it can be part of the recommendations that the committee makes to council.

I've started to collect some resources to assist us in understanding what a municipal poverty strategy would look like. Take a look through these plans and reports (posted April 4th at bullsheet.wordpress.com) if you are interested in providing input to city council on this issue. This is just a sampling of the info I hope to collect, and represents just the governmental side of this issue. By no means should personal experience of those who have experienced poverty be any less important to this issue than professional reports and policies. Communicating these experiences is crucial to this process. Email me -chris@bchannelnews.tv if you have any ideas on this.

Chris Johnson is a writer and journalist concerned about the inherent rights of all earth's creatures.



A Harm Reduction Strategy for Victoria?

May 31, 2010 will mark 2 years without a central location for people who use illicit drugs to access safer drug use supplies and support from their peers, outreach staff and street nurses.

We've had 2 years of punitive, regressive harm reduction service delivery thanks to the Vancouver Island Health Authority and the Victoria Police Department, and absolutely no progress on the provision of supervised consumption services despite a decade of research and reports calling for them.

The Mayor and Council of the City of Victoria say Harm Reduction is one of their top priorities. We invite you to join us in making City Hall keep its promise! As we get ready for May 31, help us make sure the the City hears our demands loud and clear.

The City of Victoria should call for the end of the VIHA- and Police-sanctioned "no-go zone" which restricts the distribution & recovery of safer drug use supplies between Blanshard, Chambers, Balmoral & Yates. The "no-go zone" removes our community's capacity to address open drug use. They should provide a centrally-located property for a 'harm reduction resource centre' which would include supervised consumption services.

Supervised consumption services...

...save lives. All credible research agrees that medically supervised injection greatly reduces the transference of deadly infections and costly hospital stays for preventable illnesses.

...reduce open drug use. When people who use drugs have a safe environment to consume drugs, drug use in our public spaces will be reduced.

...provide access to treatment and other health care supports. With the presence of health care professionals, those seeking to reduce or cease their drug use entirely can be helped to do so.

...are dignified. Open drug use demeans people who use drugs and does nothing to address the growing problem of addiction in our society.

...are fixed site needle exchanges. A distributed model of needle exchange must not replace fixed site services.

City property for a harm reduction resource centre now!

Supervised Consumption Services now!

End the No-Go Zone now!

To hell with the bridge...We need Justice!

In 2009 the City Of Victoria made Harm Reduction one of its priorities

Join Us!

Make City Hall Keep its Promise!

Harm Reduction Services Save Lives!
Provide access to treatment and healthcare!
Reduce open drug use! Are dignified!
Are fixed-site needle exchanges!



HRV
HARM REDUCTION

HRV stands in solidarity with people who use drugs in their struggle for justice and dignity and, in particular, with those who suffer from homelessness, discrimination and violence as a result of their status as a person who uses drugs.

The War on People Who Use Drugs is a War on the Poor.

www.harmreductionvictoria.ca victoria.harmreduction@gmail.com

The Advocate

by W. Robert Arnold

There is a battle being fought in Ottawa between The Government and Parliament over who has the power. What is the difference between the Government and Parliament?

Parliament is made up of all of the elected representatives we send to Ottawa to act in our interest.

The government is essentially the Cabinet made up of the PM and the Ministers he appointed. The party with the most seats in Parliament gets to form the government usually. It can be less than 50% of the seats, though, and is then a Minority Government. Minority governments usually need to make deals with other parties to get their legislation passed into law.

The present government run by Stephen Harper is a minority government but is acting like it has a majority of the seats; and is getting away with it because none of the other parties want an election. If the government motion or legislation is not passed it can be a matter of confidence and the government can fall.

That means either the Leader of the Opposition is asked if he can form a government with the help of other parties in the opposition, or Parliament is dissolved and an election is held.

Well, the Committee of Parliament that is looking into the Afghanistan detainee situation has asked the government for all of the documents pertaining to the situation and the government has said it will only release the documents it feels the committee should have. The government is claiming that releasing all of the documents would be a danger to the security of Canada and to the soldiers in Afghanistan.

This is not good enough, says the committee because it is the committee that should decide what documents can be released to the public. The committee can be sworn to secrecy by being sworn into the Privy Council, a group of MPs including Cabinet, leaders of the other parties and committee members when needed, that can be charged under the official secrets act if they divulge secret information. That is the way I understand it.

So on December the 9th of last year a motion was passed in the House ordering the government to release all the documents without censoring, which they do by hiding the censored bits with a black marker. In the documents released so far there have been hundreds of pages totally blacked out. The headers and page numbers are there and everything else is just black.

The government has refused to comply with this order of the Parliament. In March three MPs asked the Speaker of the House to find three Ministers of the government in Contempt of Parliament. The Speaker said he wouldn't decide immediately and would welcome a response from the government. Rob Nicholson, one of the Ministers named in the request, responded on behalf of the government. What he said in an hour and a half of talking was, No!

This week the opposition members will respond to the Nicholson's answer and probably restate the request to the Speaker for a Contempt finding against the three Ministers. If he does that the Ministers will have to appear before the Bar of the Parliament and justify their actions, or be found in contempt and perhaps be sent to the cells in the basement of the Parliament Buildings until the documents are released.

There are thousands of people in Canada who are hoping the Parliament wins this battle and that the documents are released because we feel there may well be evidence of wrongdoing by the Ministers and by the Prime Minister hidden in them. There are thousands of documents involved in this battle.

Did the Government of Canada know that prisoners our soldiers were handing over to Afghan authorities were being tortured and did nothing about it? If it did it may be guilty of war crimes according to the Geneva Convention. The people in the Cabinet, who knew might be tried in the World Court and if found guilty might be sentenced to years in prison.

According to British Parliamentary history and practice, and according to our Constitution, Parliament is superior to Government. After all, as I explained, Parliament can defeat a Government on a matter of confidence and bring it down. Stay Tuned!

Robert has fought poverty, his own and others, for over 45 years.



Bullies and Thugs

by cyann ray

I'll start off by saying that there are good cops and bad cops. Good by-law enforcement officers and bad ones. It has been my personal misfortune that, with the exception of former Seattle chief of police now L.E.A.P. spokesperson Norm Stamper, I have only met and read about the bad ones.

Toronto, early 70's. I have my first encounter with the police. We are a small group of mostly 15 yr. old girls caught sharing a bottle of Baby Duck down behind the schoolyard. Our offence? Minor consumption. We are fingerprinted. As I dispensed some creamy, white cleanser onto my inked hands, a nearby officer flashes an unfamiliar, wicked smile, licks his lips and says to me "What does THAT remind you of?" Immediately I am both confused and disgusted.

First impressions speak volumes and last forever. I learned that night why cops are called "pigs" and that it's best to simply avoid them.

A few summers later, I'm riveted to the big screen falling in love with Al Pacino playing real-life good cop, Frank Serpico. I learn about the powerful brotherhood officers must join and how difficult it can be for good cops.

Recent media coverage of local police allegedly choosing physical violence over 'serving and protecting' should alert folks that all is not well with the VicPD. And while some die-hard conservatives will argue that police have a difficult job and we should just overlook any improprieties, how can ANYONE justify the killing of Robert Dziekanski at the hands of our national police force, the RCMP?? And remember Rodney King? South of the border, cops are just as likely to overstep their authority. The real question isn't how can we retrain officers, but how many beatings have occurred that were not captured on video?

It's been over three decades since I met my first cop, and I still feel it's best to simply avoid them. It's bad enough when they abuse their position, what makes it a lot worse is that they are rarely held accountable or effectively punished. There never seems to be any objective investigation into the wrong doing. Maybe a transfer. A paid leave. A hefty severance package, or that almighty slap on the wrist. Getting the police to investigate themselves makes as much sense as allowing government officials to decide amongst themselves if they should get a raise. Hard to respect policies like that.

It all boils down to intimidation. Co-operation thru intimidation. Make everyone afraid of you (because you can't be trusted to do the right thing, to be fair, reasonable and just), and you become the alpha dog in charge of our citizenry.

So I've carried that lesson I learned as a teenager to simply avoid the police throughout my adult life. It's been a fairly easy task since I am a law-biding citizen who has always lived indoors. But in 2000 I discovered another group that should also be avoided. It was almost 10 yrs. ago that I become the "mother" of a dog and had to begin dealing with a group of zealots known as the Animal Control By-law Enforcement.

Like real cops, the dog cops frequently use intimidation, harassment, threats and even physical violence to ensure compliance. I have

met very few dog owners who didn't have at least one story of abuse. The ONLY way to avoid these by-law enforcers (besides owning a cat instead) is to make sure Fido goes from your fenced backyard, to your S.U.V. to an area outside of their jurisdiction.

I don't drive. I don't have a yard. And I chose to train my pup on a mental leash. Apparently this makes me a criminal in the eyes of the dog cops. (Real cops have never taken issue with my off-leash dog). My pooch has all his shots, has always been licensed, is under my complete verbal control 24/7 and I pick up all his poops. And yet despite this responsible commitment to dog ownership, I am forced to adjust my outings lest I be nabbed and charged by these 'officers.'

There is only one 24 hr. 'safe-zone' in the CRD for free-range dogs, Dallas Road between Mile Zero and Clover Point. But even there dog owners are subject to harassment by the dog cops. And since most folks don't have the time, skill or motivation to effectively train their dogs to be verbally controlled, most comply to the leash laws. This usually makes dogs leash-dependent and not adequately socialized so problems can arise at the Dallas Rd. dog park. Untrained critters bolt across the busy street, or bark at passing horses, or jump up on people, or trip joggers or frighten children or show aggression towards other dogs. The laws should be rewritten to state that you must have effective control over your dog at all times. Since a leash does not guarantee control and can actually be counter-productive, enforcing such a law seems unreasonable. And yet these by-law enforcement officers are relentless in their quest to flaunt their authority and issue fines.

Bullying is a form of abuse that has caught public attention these past few years. School children are most susceptible. Years of being bullied can drive teens to drastic behaviours from mass murder to suicide. Clearly, bullying is harmful and we as a society should strive to eliminate such anti-social, destructive behaviours.

Ironically, police are often sent into schools to discuss the evils of bullying and violence. When our men and women in blue cannot be trusted to do the right thing, how can we respect them? How can they stand up as role models for our youth?

I am curious to find out the common (defective?) traits that real cops and dog cops share. What inspires them to overstep their authority, or use violence as a form of control? What leads them to these positions in the first place? Were THEY bullied as children and this is a way of regaining control over themselves?

I just read that one VicPD decided to quit the force in order to avoid disciplinary punishment. During his 15 mth. suspension he was still paid his full salary of \$75,000/yr. plus benefits. And he'll be receiving a full pension. (E. Cardone, VicNews, Ap.2/10). And recently I heard that one notoriously hostile dog cop was fired after beating up a couple of dog owners. Too little, too late I say. That bullying mentality runs rampant through these professions. It's not right. I'm not sure what the solution is. But I do know it's simply best to avoid them.



Just came back from Linden house. It was so sad seeing the once so vibrant house looking lifeless. It was such a beautiful vibrant house full of life that brought hope to everyone who set foot into its doors. The house was truly a community house in almost every way imaginable. It offered a sense of what it means to be community, forming new families and friendships and solidarity. It literally provided shelter and food to hundreds of people from all over Turtle Island. It was a lot like the home and the neighborhood that I grew up in, a mainly all white middle class neighborhood where we knew our neighbors' names and cared for one another when someone was sick or there was a need for community support. The only difference between then and now is now we don't know each by name nor do we express concern for each others' well being. In Linden house we did this for about six years straight. We took the time to support one another through practicing what we preached.

It was through all of our poverty that we were forced to overcome our differences in age, race and gender. It was through our commitment to our community that we came together in our activism that we learned how so many of us managed to get along so well. We truly were an oddball family that has contributed to our extended community in many different ways through our community in actions free workshops such as education workshops on social issues effecting the world, self defense training, poster making, dancing, singing, and so much more.

I will miss the back yard gatherings beside our garden listening to my roommates strumming the guitars, sharing potluck meals, midnight runs with my dog along the Dallas Rd dog park, worse yet I miss my dog cause we were no able to take her with us to our new temporary abode in Fernwood.

Thank to Kym H., Larkin, Moss, Jen D., Scott, Alex, Chase, Connie, Freya, Comard, Forrest, Bridgette, Jason, Charlie and so many more; for giving me some of the most memorable moments and restoring my faith in community. May the spirit of Linden house live on and spread throughout the world like the seeds of a dandelion when the wind blows and become replanted to continue to grow and change in all of our struggles to make positive changes in a world that has so much injustice.

I would like to dedicate this article to the many friends that I made throughout my far too short of a stay at Linden House.

Economic Violence

by Rose Henry

Most studies on violence, written in gender-based language (GBV), have focused on its physical, sexual, and psychological manifestations. I would to draw attention to another type of violence called "economic" which is experienced by mainly women like myself.

Economic violence to me means I have very limited access to funds and credit which has a rippling effect on my health, employment, and education. At most of labouring work sites I experienced receiving unequal remuneration for work done equal in value by richer (and yes I am reluctant to print or say) white people...(especially men), often feeling overworked and underpaid, and used for unpaid work outside the contractual agreement because I feel obligated to do so I can establish a secure job or a place to live.

Unfortunately for me and my family, economic violence results in deepening poverty and compromises educational attainment and developmental opportunities for all the women in my clan. Passing on the growing intensity of hardship to off spring. In some cases it leads to physical violence, promotes sexual exploitation and the risk of contracting terminal diseases, maternal morbidity and mortality, and trafficking of ourselves and personal property. Economic abuse has become a mainstay condition for me.

There may not be any immediate visual scars but there is a lot of internal spiritual, emotional and mental ones. Especially when I have to work beside the "I have everything" people, or when I am publicly scolded for standing at the front of the customer service line and have just realized I do not have enough cash to purchase the item that I need (not just wanted...no luxury items allowed). For me this means I have to go without ... again. Then the glares are usually cast my way or people come and tell me "if I only just stopped being a public nuisance and got a job instead of organizing a rally or a free public workshop."

There is need for further large-scale studies on economic violence to women. Multi-strategy interventions that promote equity between women and men, provide economic opportunities for women, inform them of their rights, reach out to the powers that be and change societal beliefs and attitudes that permit exploitative behavior are urgently required. I know that we can achieve this if we support local initiatives that empower the most marginalized people. Things like buy-local grow-local, by the people and for the people. We must get back down to the community basics and start trusting and working together again, no matter what our differences are.



How do YOU survive poverty?

Share **your** story anonymously if you'd like ... write to us at streetnewz@islandnet.com or leave your writings in our mailbox at 1027 Pandora.

Got a bee in your bonnet?



photo: daisythecurlycat.blogspot.com

Write it up and send it to streetnewz@islandnet.com or drop it off in our mailbox at 1027 Pandora.

Free University!

University 101 is a program that offers FREE, non-credit, academic courses that will introduce students to a wide range of university topics. Non-credit means that you will get a completion certificate for attending the course, but the course cannot be applied to a degree or diploma program.

We try to support our students as much as possible, so meals are provided at the beginning of each class. Bus tickets and child care subsidies are also available.

What is the goal of University 101 and 102?

To provide introductory academic courses to people whose economic and social circumstances normally pose obstacles to university education.

Why do a course like University 101 and 102?

Because critical thinking and a passion for learning are elements of citizenship that can and should be shared amongst everyone. Humanities and Social Sciences give us ways to understand our own society and history.

What courses are offered?

University 101 is an introductory course in the Humanities.

University 102 is an introductory course in the Social Sciences.

Applications for the September 2010 University 101 course will be available in May 2010, please check the website: web.uvic.ca/uni101/

Site C Dam Update

from Don Startin

Right on deadline day Street Newz was granted an interview with Sandra Hoffmann who is the paid coordinator in the Peace River Environment Association's [P.V.E.A.] struggle to keep what's left of the B.C. Peace Valley undammed.

According to her, people "in the know" think the "Lieberals" will announce that they will allow Hydro to take the project to Phase Three [Environmental Assessment] by mid April 2010. Unfortunately, changes to the provincial and federal environmental assessment processes may make things harder for us environmentalists. Both these facets of the struggle are an article in themselves.

Early in the Phase Two process Hydro managed to arrange to deal separately with the West Moberley First Nation, some of whose land stands to be flooded, with a closed door style negotiation. Under this agreement the West Moberley cannot criticise the negotiations publically until today, too late for us to pass on any items of interest.

Many other bands will have to give their O.K. for Hydro to build the connector transmission line from the project to the provincial grid, and to widen the existing right of way of the provincial grid so that more power can be transmitted on its way south west. We will hope our first nations friends will tell Hydro to get lost.

A new player has emerged in the struggle to save our river. C.U.S.P. [Citizens United to

Save the Peace] is a small group of activists who specialize in actions and demonstrations. They were much in evidence at all Hydro's open houses etc letting the public know what the score was in the Site C area.

The big annual rally to save the river is called "Paddle for the Peace." This year, July 10th, there will be lots of V.I.P. guests. There will be a four hour paddleathon. There will be facilities for a half way pull out plus a barbeque and speeches. A good time will be had by all. I would urge anybody who can possibly make it to do so. It will be a wonderful way for activists to get the full flavour of the river and its valley, and meet the people who live there in a most meaningful way.

For more information: cuspsc.org, paddleforthepeace.ca, peacevalley.ca.



We would like to invite you to get involved as we take the Red Tent campaign national.

We need people across the country to join the campaign and organize actions in their own communities.

We'll be distributing Red tents and tarps to organizations across Canada to raise awareness about the need for federal government action on homelessness.

As the campaign grows and spreads across the country, we will prepare for our most ambitious action yet - setting up 1000 red tents on Parliament Hill.

1000 Red Tents to Ottawa !!!!



Pivot's mandate is to take a strategic approach to social change, using the law to address the root causes that undermine the quality of life of those most on the margins. We believe that everyone, regardless of income, benefits from a healthy and inclusive community where values such as opportunity, respect and equality are strongly rooted in the law.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Red Tent campaign a success during the Olympics.

The Games are over, but Canada's housing crisis is not - so we're taking the Red Tent campaign national.

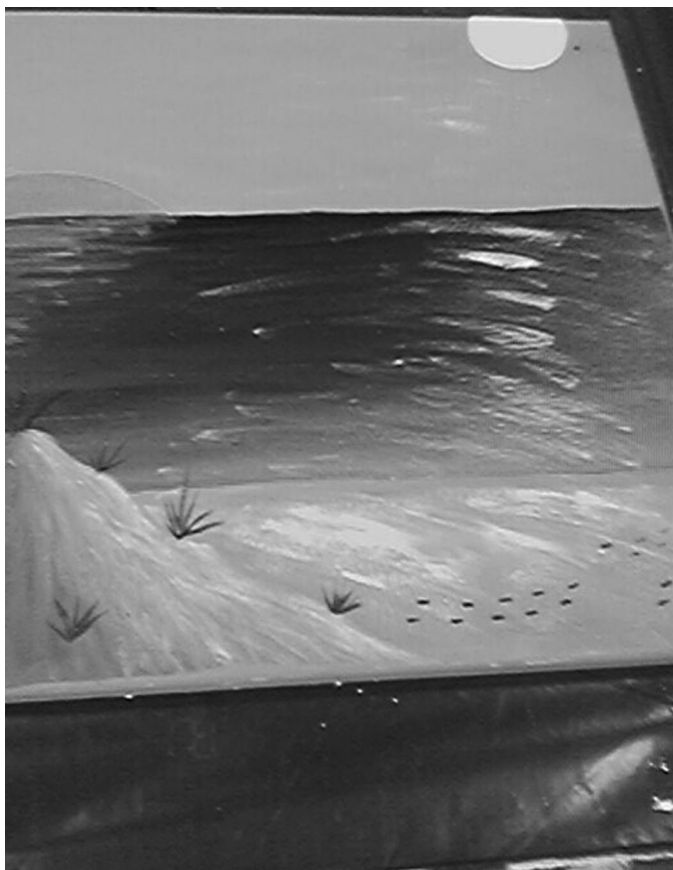
We are inviting people across the country to join the campaign for a funded national housing strategy and to become part of the growing movement to end homelessness in Canada.

Sponsor a tent today! Visit RedTents.org or write to housingnow@redtents.org or Pivot Legal, 678 Hastings Street East, Vancouver, BC V6A 1R1.

Art of Hope !!

from Robina

I volunteered for this wonderful Art of Hope project at the Austin State Hospital (the state mental health



hospital here in town, near the Wheatsville Co-op). We had about 20 patients and 5 volunteers and we painted hopeful pictures to hang in the hospital.

It was a very special time for me as I got to assist two very fragile men explore their creativity and escape into their imaginations for the day. Neither one of them had painted before, and they both did wonderful paintings.

David painted the Deep Ocean Blowfish, and Joe painted the Footprints in the Sand. We helped each other pick photographs and mix paints and encouraged each other throughout the day.



Joe told me that his mother was dying of cancer and he had given her a poem about footprints in the sand, but he couldn't remember if it was two sets of footprints or one set of footprints. I told him I believe it may have been a poem about Jesus, when there are two sets of footprints, he is walking beside you, but when there is only one set, he has not abandoned you, he is carrying you. He agreed that was how the poem went that he had given his mother.

Rosie the therapy dog painted paw prints and tail wag abstracts. I painted the Hope Bernard, praying that it might be hopeful in the children's ward.

Anyhow, I finally got to volunteer with the patients and it was a very special time!



Deconstructing Dinner: A Crisis in Awareness and Participation

by Jon Steinman

Michael Ableman is a farmer, author and photographer.

His interest to change the way in which North Americans access food began decades ago, placing Ableman as one of the veterans of “food activism.”

Among the many crises that the world is quickly waking up to, food is at the top of the list and alongside the many others who have helped clear the way for the organic and local food movements, Ableman’s work is receiving greater attention today than ever before.

Ableman farms is located on Salt Spring Island, B.C., and Ableman’s philosophies are heard across the continent through his published works and his extensive public speaking.

Not long ago, Ableman travelled to the interior of the province to address communities who are on the path to greater community food self-sufficiency. The climax of his talk was a manifesto of sorts; a list of actions that he believes all municipalities in North America must adopt in order to feed the future. He insisted that such actions must be undertaken before our options are narrowed for us.

“I would propose the following,” he announced to the Nelson, B.C. audience. “That every city in North America have an urban agriculture centre; centres based on real urban or peri-urban farms that model not only the social, cultural and ecological benefits of farming in the city, but the economic benefits as well.”

Ableman stressed that promoting the economics of more localized food systems is the hardest sell. Today, however, with the state of our economies being suggestive that all previous models have failed, any new idea is worth a closer look.

“These centres should model the range of possibilities from growing food on your balcony or even in a window box,” he continued, “from multi-acre, ground-level production to full-scale, multi-acre, rooftop production. They should model not just the production of carrots and tomatoes, but the more fundamental and necessary elements of the human diet such as small scale grains, pulses, meat and dairy production.”

One of the best examples of how urban agriculture can make a noticeable dent on total food production was in Cuba, following the collapse of their biggest trading partner – the Soviet Union. Ableman was certain to point out the successes found there. One of those successes was the presence of urban agricultural extension agents employed by the City of Havana. He suggested that this example must be adopted in North America.

“Every city across North America should have teams of extension agents in numbers proportionate to the populations devoted to urban food production.”

Ableman referred to the offering of workshops, training, on-site support and marketing assistance as some of the activities that extension agents could be responsible for.

Also of great concern to Ableman was the nutrient cycle that is so vital to growing food. For decades now, North Americans have relied on a model of food production that is dependent on inputs of nutrients that come from afar and most often derived from non-renewable fossil fuels.

“We need a full cycle food system that allows for the return of organic waste via central regional composting facilities,” suggested Ableman.

His manifesto even presented new perspectives on how municipalities should approach new housing and commercial developments.

“Every new permit for a housing development should be required to have an approved food production component on a scale relative to the number of people who will be living there.”

Ableman expanded his suggestion to include the presence of rooftop gardens on every office, retail space and warehouse. He proposed that the heat generated by the buildings could be used to warm the rooftop greenhouses. Examples of these models are certainly popping up in many North American cities.

The Nelson audience was perhaps most enthused by Ableman’s comments on how such new perspectives on food production could extend into schools.

“We need farming, cooking, gardening and building courses in the schools, but what’s important, is that we need those subjects to be given the same status and attention that is now given to math, or English or the sciences.”

The audience applauded.

“We need to establish formal programs based on working farms in every region in the country to retrain the newly unemployed in the art and craft of growing food and those other support skills like carpentry, mechanics and welding.”

As he neared the end of his talk, his suggestions moved beyond the proposed role of government and institutions, and instead addressed the role of each of us.

“I don’t believe that there is so much a food or environmental or economic crisis, as much as there is a crisis in awareness and participation,” said Ableman.

“If we responded to the depletion of soil with the same call to arms that we have with a drop in the stock market, imagine the world we would live in.”

Jon Steinman co-ordinates “Deconstructing Dinner,” a syndicated radio programme heard across Canada and around the world. A recording of Ableman’s talk can be found at www.cjly.net/deconstructingdinner/031909.htm. DD airs Wednesdays at 2 pm on CFUV 101.9 FM.

Resistance Was Fertile

Sustainability Initiative for UVIC:
UVIC as a Garden Campus

Imagine a campus where student, staff, and faculty come to learn how to connect with the land and our community. A living laboratory where we can demonstrate innovations in integrating sustainability into teaching, learning, research, and community partnerships. A place to further advance our commitment to sustainability on the ground, in the classroom, in research and in the region.

Since March 24th, when a garden was first planted at UVic by students and community-members, discussions and debates about the use of space at UVic have grown. Whether for or against the garden, a number of interconnected issues have been raised: how are decisions made, by whom, and how might they be made differently? How do we relate to the spaces at UVic, how do we relate to each other, and how might these relations be remade? What kinds of activities do we want to see at UVic? How can we address issues of food security and sustainability?



Over the past two weeks, gardens were planted, bulldozed, and replanted at UVic, in front of MacPherson library. The people and communities that converged on this space—and those who continue to maintain it—are diverse, with no central structure, political platform, or bureaucratic hierarchy. [The second student garden was bulldozed on April 9th.]

Resistance is Fertile is a network that helps to foster collective, creative action on and off campus. Those involved in the network have a diversity of ideas and priorities, and this is one of the strengths of the network. Resistance is Fertile provides a means to explore diverse issues and problems in creative ways!

For info write to uvicgardencampuscollective@gmail.com.



The Reactionary Holocaust- Global Water Supply in Crisis

By Shelley Bluejay Pierce

“The three water crises - dwindling freshwater supplies, inequitable access to water and the corporate control of water - pose the greatest threat of our time to the planet and to our survival. Together with impending climate change from fossil fuel emissions, the water crises impose some life-or-death decisions on us all. Unless we collectively change our behavior, we are heading toward a world of deepening conflict and potential wars over the dwindling supplies of freshwater - between nations, between rich and poor, between the public and the private interest, between rural and urban populations, and between the competing needs of the natural world and industrialized humans.”

Maude Barlow, *Blue Covenant: The Global Water Crisis and the Coming Battle for the Right to Water*

Corporate greed and political obsessions brought the global economy to a screeching halt in 2008. Representing a small percentage of the total population, these elite financial manipulators wrecked havoc upon the whole of society. Never in our history has an event like the recent financial crisis demonstrated that we, as a society, are inextricably interconnected.

Entire tent-cities made up of the homeless and unemployed sprang up like dandelions in the summer heat. However, contrary to the incessant yammering in the media and within the hallowed halls of political leaderships, the threat to our very survival is not financial decline. This threat is not based upon whether you have a job or are living in a tent-city due to financial ruination.

There is one common need for all living things to survive on this planet and it is not money. Few people or leaderships are acknowledging it and far fewer are taking action to protect this item in an effort to save us all from a global reactionary holocaust. Our most critical need for global survival is fresh water. You can survive in a tent without a job, electricity or modern conveniences so long as you have clean drinking water to sustain you. The international political communities and hosts of pocket-stuffing profiteers would have us think otherwise.

Why do I call the global water crisis a “reactionary holocaust?”

The immediate response to the term ‘holocaust’ brings forth a plethora of historical annihilations centered upon a particular race. Such will be the case again if we, as a united race of humans, do not protect the source of all life forms on this planet. Billions of people in less developed countries do not have access to clean water. Much of that available water is of poor quality and some is dangerously contaminated due to the lack of water treatment and unregulated pollution entering the water supply. An estimated 5 million people die each year from preventable water-related diseases and most of these are children. Some expert predictions state that by the year 2025, perhaps two-thirds of global populations will have limited water supplies with demands outpacing supply by 56%.

Indigenous and impoverished peoples bear the burdens in a world where an estimated 75% do not have enough clean water and estimates reveal that this portion of the human population will make up 95% of those suffering from water crisis levels by 2025. The Indigenous peoples in Bolivia account for nearly 80% of the population and they were the most impacted by transnational water companies who had raised the price of water to one-quarter the average family’s monthly salary. Civil unrest erupted between police and the military resulting in a death, many injuries and literally hundreds of arrests. Still, the water profiteers are pressuring the Bolivian government to reinstate their contracts.

The extent of this water crisis is extreme enough and the predictions for future shortages dire enough that ‘holocaust’ is the only word with enough impact to address the situation.

Climate change is quickly altering the face of our planet leaving some regions without precipitation levels sufficient enough to meet the needs of local populations. Other regions are scrambling to prevent damage from flooding from increased precipitation. Statistics reveal a clearer picture of our water crisis when experts proclaim that global consumption of water is doubling every 20 years and at more than twice the rate of human population increase.

But why do I combine this dire forecast with the term ‘reactionary?’

In the race for industrialized supremacy, nation after nation profited from new developments and technology. The long-term impact of our newest creations often took a back seat to advancement simply for the sake of industrial supremacy and wealth. For example, when we needed more electricity, we built enormous dams. Not until the vast environmental and cultural impacts where the dam was built came to light did we examine the lasting effects of hydroelectric dams. We developed irrigation canals to channel water into agricultural areas only to realize later what damage we had done to once healthy rivers. Mining activities from the past now reveal a never-ending toxic contamination flow into our fresh water supplies.

Our climate is in critical meltdown as enormous sections of polar ice caps disappear into the oceans surrounding them. The human, reactionary mindset steps in again as we plan vast solar and wind generation plants but perhaps without the critical studies being done ahead of time. If history repeats itself, we are once again in the process of “reactionary” creativity. Forced by a major crisis to adjust and modify our way of life, we jump on the nearest bandwagon that promises safety, security and an end to our next catastrophe. Our policies and developmental strategies are “reactionary” rather than being steadily proactive.

Reactionary impulses spawned yet another disaster when the Alberta Tar Sands moved into full-scale production. Creating three times more greenhouse gas emissions than conventional crude production processes, extracting oil from the tar sands requires 3 to 6 barrels of water to produce one barrel of oil. Following the extraction process, toxic water is held in lagoons and are known to leak such contaminants as arsenic, mercury, PAHs, cadmium, chromium, cobalt, and lead.

A recent study reveals that Alberta is vulnerable to water shortages due to increasing population, extensive irrigation demands and the rapid growth of the Tar Sands project.

One expert stated the projected water use for the oil sands may reach 45 cubic meters a second and that relates to about half of the low flow volume for the Athabaska River during most of the past 20 years. Nearly three quarters of Canada’s irrigation water for agriculture, and livestock operations comes from Alberta as well.

Allowed to continue on this course, Alberta will join the ranks of other regions worldwide that are caught up in the ‘reactionary holocaust.’ With climate warming, increasing population and industrialization, the final straw that broke the camel’s back may be only one drought away. Many are getting rich due to the developments but the question is, which segments of the population will pay the highest costs for these quick fixes. Our human history is riddled with responses given to catastrophes and often, with little thought to the future impacts, we move forward in all haste to ‘fix’ the problem.

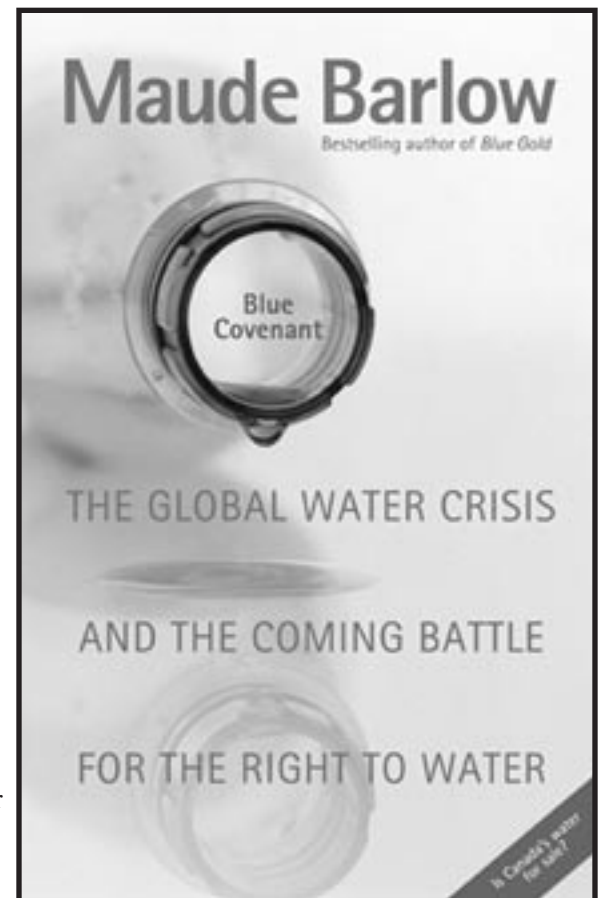
Several reports have come into me from Indigenous communities saying that when visiting governmental or agency representatives are invited to join the community leadership for a meal and something to drink, visiting dignitaries decline to partake in the meal. Are these visitors simply rude or might the truth be that they fear for their own human health and well being if they were to drink from the same tainted water supplies as the communities are forced to use? Follow the path to the cleanest water supplies and safest food and you will find those segments of the population with the greatest wealth, political power and influence to gain access to the very best.

Moving forward, we as a global community must face the fact that we are indeed an inter-connected civilization. Failure to acknowledge that one basic fact may bring about the greatest ‘holocaust’ our civilization has ever known. Do you want proof of that? Look at the massive revolts, uprisings and protests over the recent financial meltdowns. If the human race is prepared to kill one another over the all mighty currency of the day, imagine what will happen when they are fighting for their lives for one glass of water.

Shelley Bluejay Pierce lives in Montana and is published world wide. A mixed-blood Native woman, proud of her Lakota, Cree and Irish heritage, she carries a love for the Native Peoples who have endured so much misunderstanding in their cultural and traditional ways and still struggle against suppression. This article was originally published in “Our Voice” newspaper in Edmonton, Alberta and is reprinted with permission.

Sources:

*Tar Sands Watch:
[Blue Covenant: The Global Water Crisis and the Coming Battle for the Right to Water](#) by Maude Barlow.
World Water Forum Reports, 2008 statistics
United Nations World Water Development Reports*



To the Editor

Newspaper reports of Canadian Omar Khadr note he hasn't had a trial on the charges that he killed a US Marine in Afghanistan. While technically true, Khadr has had at least two military hearings. The first was classified. The second was initially opened to the press.

Before reporters were barred, the court heard from three marines, including the commanding officer on site. They testified Omar could not have killed anyone because he was lying on the floor of the radio room at the time with a bullet in the back of his head.

Omar is bilingual in English and Afghani. He was able to intercept messages from the marines as they closed in and relay their positions to his fellows. Because he stayed at his post, some of his fellow trainees may have escaped. All the other 15-year-old boys trapped in the compound were killed. Omar lost an eye.

Later, with the apparent knowledge and complicity of Canadian government officials, he was tortured at Guantanamo Bay. He is still prisoner there in spite of the Canadian Supreme Court reminding our government of their duty to protect Canadians. All Western countries that had prisoners at Guantanamo have successfully repatriated their citizens. Except Canada.

It must stick in the craw of the Harper's and Iggy's that Omar Khadr was a better soldier, a better Canadian and a lot better man by the age of 15 than they will ever be.

Jim Erkiletian

A Perfect Storm of Corruption

by Betty Krawczyk

Well, corruption has been with us all along, right? Government, corporations, organized crime; we eat their life systems every morning for breakfast, so what? The "what" is that these systems are now converging to the point where nothing much can function except the corruption. And all these different branches of corruption sit atop the rotten carcass of our banking system.

Okay, talk of banking systems make people's heads ache. It makes mine ache, too. Who the hell can understand the banking system? It's like lawyer's talk, or mathematicians talk, or physicist talk...it's a whole different language. And that's why we have to labour so hard to understand it. But understand it we must or we will shrivel and die as a people. Literally. Exaggeration? I stand accused. But I tell what I see and write what I think. And I, as well as others, can see the perfect storm gathering on the horizon.

The private banking system, domestically and globally, is the eye of the storm. Yes, we all know this at some level, and many are getting a real hate on for the banks because of the huge bonuses paid to the executives. But those bonuses are small winds compared to threatening tsunamis roaring over our oceans and lands because of The Royal Bank, Scotiabank, CIBC, Toronto Dominion and others. What's so bad about these banks? The way they lend money. Money they don't actually have. If they don't actually have the money, you may ask, how do they give loans?

When any of us go in into a private bank (95 per cent of loans in Canada are given by private banks) to apply for a house loan (mortgage, or whatever) we are under the impression the bank has the money to lend to us. But they don't. The tiny fraction of reserve they hold compared to what they have loaned out (four billion held in reserves nationally compared to the one point five trillion they have loaned out) they can't possibly have the actual money to loan. So what do the banks do? They counterfeit some new money. Their own printing presses? Sort of. They write up official pieces of paper that say in the future you will pay real money back to them along with compound interest on your loan of their private bank bogus money.

Can we as a people comprehend that our banks are private Ponzi-like schemes that are threatening to implode and that we, as innocents, are collateral damage? And that it doesn't have to be? The federal government is allowed by law to borrow from the Bank of Canada, the people's bank. Without interest. Certainly not compound interest. Then why aren't we doing business with our own bank instead of private banks that charge compound interest? Because our heads of governments and heads of private banks do business together, profit together, and are, with few exceptions, crooks together. If we can recognize this, as a people, then we can do something about it.



Betty Shiver Krawczyk is a Louisiana born, BC based environmental activist, eco-feminist writer, great-grandmother, author and former political candidate. Read more from Betty at bettysearlyedition.blogspot.com and www.schiverrhodespublishing.com.

Zombie Army

by C. L. Cook

Typically, several weeks pass between the writing and reading of *Street Newz* articles. Today, as I write, the television newz is replaying U.S. military video tapes recorded from the cockpit of an attack helicopter. You may have seen the images, and likely forgotten about the whole thing by now. By way of a brief rearview mirror check, I'll remind of this incident, and try provide context to it.

The video in question was recorded in July 2007, the tapes never meant to be aired. Someone, likely within the military, knew about this incident and released the tapes to Wikileaks, an organization whose mission is to bring light to the dark corners of corporate and government malfeasance, and in this case mass murder. Wikileaks has been the subject in recent months of a number of interesting news stories, mostly dealing with spy agency attempts to penetrate and undermine the organization. The reason for this is simple: Wikileaks is providing the service major media outlets and newspapers once performed, before they became just another component of larger corporations, corporations making a great deal of money war profiteering. I mention this because, I did something tonight I rarely do; I checked the ABC Evening News to see how they might cover this disturbing incident. What I saw there was: Nothing. Nada. Zip. Never happened.

The video you may recall depicts a dozen Iraqi men shot to pieces as they are gathered about a Reuters news photographer on a busy Baghdad street in the middle of the afternoon. It is replete with running jokes and commentary by the pilots and gunners as they wield the helicopter's 30mm machine guns from some unseen distance. When children are revealed to be among the wounded taken out of a passerby van that had stopped to offer assistance to the victims of this unprovoked attack, dead and bleeding in the road, one wag in the cockpit says; "Serves 'em right for bringing their kids to a battle."

"That's Right!" replies another of the remorseless killers.

Two things are immediately made apparent by this horror: The first is; not only will the corporate American media not investigate crimes carried out by "their troops," they also will not air the results of others' investigations. Secondly; the casual disregard these soldiers display before, during, and after the slaughter of the men, women, and children beneath them reveals America's complete moral bankruptcy. In that regard, there is no *there* there; nothing left in the tank.

Playing by the Rules

The initial response by the Pentagon, the heart and brains of America's military beast, was the assertion that, upon investigation, this gruesome event conformed to their so-called 'Rules of Engagement.' That is to say, everything done that July day fell entirely within the parameters of behaviour expected of the occupation garrison forces. Indeed, the casual banter heard on the tape suggests there are likely innumerable instances just like the one revealed that remain hidden from public view.

To its credit, CBC's The National did air some of the footage Wikileaks released, (including pictures of a wounded man, the Reuters reporter, crawling along the sidewalk, finally killed when the helicopter opened fire on the Good Samaritans that stopped to help him). The CBC too ran a story on Canadian complicity in war crimes in Afghanistan.

The problem for Canada here is the fact Canada's military has signed on to America's "Rules of Engagement," themselves adopted from lessons learned by the Israeli Defense Forces during its occupation of Palestine. It is those "rules" that allow more than a million Iraqi civilians be killed outright, and millions more be driven from their homes. It is those rules that allow "collateral" damage, the killing of civilians in their homes, on the street, during the day or in the middle of the night with impunity. It is those rules that more than allowing the destruction and displacement of the occupied, provide they be dehumanized entirely, rendered in the minds of their assailants as merely digital abstractions, datum on a screen the erasure of which is no more worrying than lost avatars in a video game.

Into its ninth year, the occupation of Afghanistan shows little sign of accomplishing whatever it was publicly supposed to. Thousands have been killed, maimed, made homeless, orphaned. In Iraq, those numbers are ten-fold again. As the soldiers in that helicopter have become entirely inured to the gravity of their actions, their moral imagination stunted, admitting nothing that could not fit a telephone play screen, we citizens too have failed to admit our responsibility for the actions of our governments. We the people have failed to police our collective conscience, allowing instead atrocity replace policy, viciousness oust virtue, and heartless pragmatism trump humanity. We have become, in spiritual terms, the walking dead, capable of nothing save mindless consumption.

Chris Cook offers alternative views via Gorilla Radio, 5 pm Mondays on CFUV radio (cfuv.uvic.ca, 101.9 FM), and online at pacificfreepress.com.



Food Resources		please send updates to streetnewz@islandnet.com	Housing Resources
9-10 CLUB (ST. ANDREW’S SOUP KITCHEN) 740 View St. Victoria, B.C. V8W 1J8 ph: 250-388-5571 8 - 10am seven days a week. Church-run club providing daily meals on a drop-in basis.			No Cost for Service, Time Limited Stay Salvation Army (Emerg men only) 525 Johnson Street, 250-384-3396 Streetlink 1634 Store Street, 250-383-1951 Sandy Merriman House (for women) 809 Burdett Avenue, 250-480-1408 Sobering & Assessment Ctr (24 hr) 1125 Pembroke (@ Cook) 250-213-4444 Out of the Rain (Youth 15-25) 250-812-0490 winter only, various locations Kiwanis Youth Shelter (13-18) 2117 Vancouver St., 250-386-8282 Hill House - Women with children 250-479-3963 Sooke Transition House 250-642-2591 Women with or without children Vic. Women’s Transition House 250-385-6611 Women with or w/out kids Cridge Centre for the Family 1190 Kings Rd 250-386-7291 Women & kids Kiwanis House for single women 16-29 w/ one child 250-382-1004 Margaret Laurence House 250-995-0058 Women & kids escaping abuse
ANAWIM COMPANION SOCIETY 973 Caledonia Street Victoria B.C. V8T 1E7 phone: 250-382-0283 Mon, Tues, Thurs 10am-5pm, Weds, Fri 10am-8pm, Sat 10am-4pm Laundry, showers, meals, clothing, limited housing spaces.			Low Cost Monthly Rentals Ritz Hotel - 710 Fort Street, 250-381-1868 Fairfield Hotel - 710 Cormorant St., 250-386-1621 York Hotel - 711 Johnson Street, 250-385-2544 Douglas Hotel - 1450 Douglas Street, 250-383-4157 Ocean Island Backpackers - 791 Pandora Avenue 250-385-1788 Turtle Refuge Backpackers - 1608 Quadra Street 250-386-4471 Vic. Human Exchange Soc. 361- 2762, 1-800-691-9366, www.humanx.org Extreme Outreach - men only, \$350 + dep. No alcohol or drugs. 250-708-2064
COMMUNITY FOOD BANK 4-697 Goldstream Ave, 250-474-4443 Tues, Weds: 10am-3pm, closed last week of the month			Subsidized and/or Supported Housing Services BC Housing (subsidized - low income families, 55+, or w/disabilities) 301- 3440 Douglas Street, 250-475-7550 www.bchousing.org Burnside Gorge Community Assoc. 250-388-5251 members.shaw.ca/bgca Capital. Region Housing (subsidized, low income families, 55+, disabilities) 623 Fisgard, 250-388-6422 www.crd.bc.ca/housing Capital Mental Health Association Satellite Housing Program 250-389-1211 Coordinated Housing Registry (subsidized & supported housing) www.coolaid.org 826 Cormorant St. 250-356-2548 M’Akola Housing Society 250-384-1423 Pacifica Housing Advisory Assoc. (families) 827 Fisgard 250-385-2131 Pacifica Housing Serv/Downtown Outreach Serv (connects low-income folk w/ housing in private sector) 826 Cormorant 250-356-2555 Pandora Youth Apts 753 Pandora, For 15-19 yrs, Andrea - 250-380-2663 St. Vincent de Paul Soc. 250-382-2767 www.svdpvictoria.com/services Victoria Senior Citizen Housing Society - Please register with the Housing Registry at the BC Housing Management Commission: 301-3440 Douglas 250.475.7550
ESQUIMALT COMMUNITY LUNCH Esquimalt United Church Hall, Lyall St., just past Admirals Rd. Tues & Thurs noon-1:15			Helpful Housing Hints 1. Add your name to the BC Housing list. 2. Add your name to the Coordinated Housing Registry. 3. Get the addresses & phone numbers of subsidized or supported housing units from the Cool Aid Society, the BGCA, M’Akola, etc. If you find one you like, make friends, impress them, ask them to pull your name off the list. They can let you in, but you have to be listed with BC Housing first.
GOLDSTREAM FOOD BANK 761 Station Rd (Legion Basement), Langford, B.C. phone: 250-474-4443 3rd Tuesday, monthly at the basement of the Royal Canadian Legion. Serving the Western Communities from View Royal to Metchosin			Some places to call for help Action Committee of People with Disabilites - 948 View St., 250-383-4105 Adult Addiction Comm. Treatment Serv: 2nd floor, 1250 Quadra, 250-727-3544 AIDS Van Island: 713 Johnson St, 3rd Flr, 250-384-2366 ext 2268; AVI Nx 250-896-2849 Alano Club: 1402 Broad St, 250-383-9151 Alcoholics Anon: #8, 2020 Douglas, 250-383-7744 (help), 250-383-0415 (office) Cool-Aid Medical Clinic: 250-385-1466 Cool-Aid Phone Message Service (\$5/mth): 250-383-1977 Credit Counselling - 250-477-9998 Foundation of Support of Recovery for Men: 250-480-1342 HomelessNation.org - online community Grief/Bereavement Counsel: Lorraine Jasmin, R.P.C., 1198 Goldstream, sliding scale Lalli Care Clinic - Drug Info, Med. Review, Alt Health - 250-386-5100, lallicareclinic.ca Men’s Trauma Centre: 250-381-6367, #203-1420 Quadra St. www.menstrauma.ca Outreach Services Methadone Clinic: 2004 Fernwood Rd., 250-480-1232 Problem Gambling Help Line - 1-888-795-6111 Prostitute Empowerment & Education (PEERS): 744 Fairview Rd., 250-388-5325 Research, Education, Evaluation, & Support Prog. (REES): 250-595-8619 Salvation Army Addictions & Rehab Centre: 525 Johnson, 250-384-3396 Seniors’ Advocacy Group - 388-7696 for advive; 250-360-1068 to be an advocate Society of Living Intravenous Drugusers (SOLID): 7-9 pm Weds, 1947 Cook Together Against Poverty Society (TAPS): #302-895 Fort St 361-3521 Victoria Native Friendship Centre: 384-3211 -- 231 Regina Ave V8Z 1J6 Victoria Sobering & Assessment Centre: 1125 Pembroke, 250-213-4444 Vancouver Island Addiction Recovery Soc.: 536 Cecelia, 250-480-1342 Youth-to-Youth Support Line - 24 hours. 250-386-TALK, www.youthlines.ca
FOOD NOT BOMBS A collectively run food kitchen. Ph: 250-383-5144, ext 1940 http://users.resist.ca/~fnb-victoria . A collectively run food kitchen. Free vegetarian serving Sundays, 3 pm - Harris Green (Pandora & Vancouver) Bring plastic containers for bowls, bags 4 produce.			
FRUIT AND VEGGIE BOX 901 Kings Road, Victoria, B.C., V8T 1W5 Phone: 250-388-7696 Good Food Box Program - order \$5, \$10, or \$15 box of fresh fruit and vegetables at the beginning of the month and receive it in the middle of the month. Purchased in bulk. Order and pick up boxes @ BCC			
JAMES BAY COMMUNITY SCHOOL 140 Oswego Street, Victoria, B.C. V8V 2B1 phone: 250-389-1470 Seniors Dinners on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5 PM - \$5.75 Community Dinners Weds, approx. every other month., usually \$4 & \$2 -12 & under. Tickets must be purchased at the centre in advance Community school cafe open Mon - Fri 11:45 am -12:30 pm. \$3.25 & child 2.75.			
JAMES BAY COMMUNITY PROJECT 547 Michigan Street, Victoria BC. V8V 1S5 (250) 388-7844, email: askus@jbcp.bc.ca Hours Monday to Friday 8:00am-4:00pm			
MUSTARD SEED STREET CHURCH www.mustardseed.ca 625 Queens Avenue, Victoria, B.C., V8T 1L9 Phone: 250-953-1575 Service for families: Monday, Wednesday, & Friday 9 AM - 2 PM Service for couples and singles: Thursday 9 AM - 2 PM			
OUR PLACE 919 Pandora Ave., Victoria, BC V8V 3P4, Phone: 250-388-7112 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday, closed weekends; showers & laundry 9-3:30 lunch - 11:30 am-12:30 pm; dinner - 4-5 pm Victoria’s ‘Living Room’ - a drop in centre with computer room, printers, special projects, tea & coffee, singing Wednesdays with Louise Rose.			
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY 101-831 Yates Street, Victoria, BC V8W 1M1 Phone: 250- 382-2767 9 am-12:30 pm, 1:30 pm-4:30 pm Mon-Friday, Tues aft for Women Must be 19 yrs, unless referred by parents, ASK, or Soc Services. Food, clothing, household items. Home visits, food vouchers for parents w/children.			
SAINT SAVIOUR’S KITCHEN 310 Henry Street, Church Hall (VicWest) phone: 250-384-8773 Rainbow Kitchen for everyone, Weds, Thurs, Fris, 12 noon 1:30 pm Shelter Weds-Sat nights, arrive 9-10 pm: mats, blankets, often food. Space for 25-35.			
SALVATION ARMY Family Services and Counselling (singles, too) 2695 Quadra St 250-386-8521 Monday Friday, 9 am - 3:30 pm Emergency food hampers, clothing & small house wares vouchers. Extra shelter space only available in subzero temperatures.			
SIKH TEMPLE 1210 Topaz Avenue, Victoria, V8T 2N1: (towards summit park), enter right side door 250-383-5443 Every Sunday at noon - Free food serving, lentil dahl and chapatis, etc.			
STREETLINK EMERGENCY SHELTER 1634 Store St., Victoria, B.C. V8W 1S2 Phone: 383-1951, office 383-1951 Free dinner 7 days a week, 3 pm for meal ticket, serving at 3:30			
ST. JOHN THE DIVINE 1611 Quadra St., Victoria, B.C., V8W 2L5 phone: 250-383 7169 Food bank open Tues & Fridays, 10 am-noon, in church basement. (Closed Fri and Tuesday after Welfare Wednesday, and Tuesdays after Monday stat.)			
VICTORIA NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE 231 Regina Avenue, Victoria, BC V8Z 1J6, 250-384-3211 Wholesale prices, various size boxes. Pay first, pick up following wk.			
Good Food Box Program - Duncan area - 250-746-4204, www.providence.bc.ca .			
Breakfast Club First Saturday: St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Hall, 680 Courtney St, 8-10 am Second Saturday: St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Hall, 680 Courtney St, 8-10 am Third Saturday: Glad Tidings Pentecostal Church Hall, 1800 Quadra St. 8-10 Fourth Saturday: Central Baptist Church, 833 Pandora, 8-10 am; 385-7786 Fifth Saturday: BC Ferry Workers’ Union at St. Andrew’s Hall, 8-10 am			

May 2010

Victoria Street Newz

10



Hearing One Hand Clapping

What is its sound, if not the screams of the children, and whining of the tethered animal.

What is it, if not the ricochet of the sniper's bullet off the stones, and crunch of a life-less body hitting the ground.

What is it, if not the message of power, repeating uninterrupted as an ovation.

What is it, if not that of the shell landing amid the wedding party, and the soundless sound of the victim who had no hand in his end.

Chris Cook

image: Edén Ochoa Iniesta
www.flickr.com/photos/pioforsky

Haiti Apocalypso

Rumored huge poe-esque pit
For up to 70,000 dead fit
Only tip of agony iceberg
As supplies pile up airport
85 elders starve yards away
pure anarchy in countryside
watch humanity SST Slide
into inner pit beyond morality.

The name of this aerial force is contagion
As faceless plague a la Camus glooms
An entire corrupt city becomes Tombs!
World relief scrambles to help help help
Yet yanks so naive in muscle charge
So supplies pileup army moves in Help!

Screams entire starving populace
As plague sniffs closer closer close
No sense to any of this horror hoe
Only masses of desperate dying
Clawing closer to your fat face

Dear sheltered spoiled North
Overconsumed American north
TV/Computer watchers so
very bland

Why didn't you useless slobs
Instead populate Haiti land
And rot under rubble grand?

Instead of an already
starving battered Populace
buggered by corrupt
Politicians generals
bureaucrats

Poor peoples who just didn't
didn't

DESERVE IT!

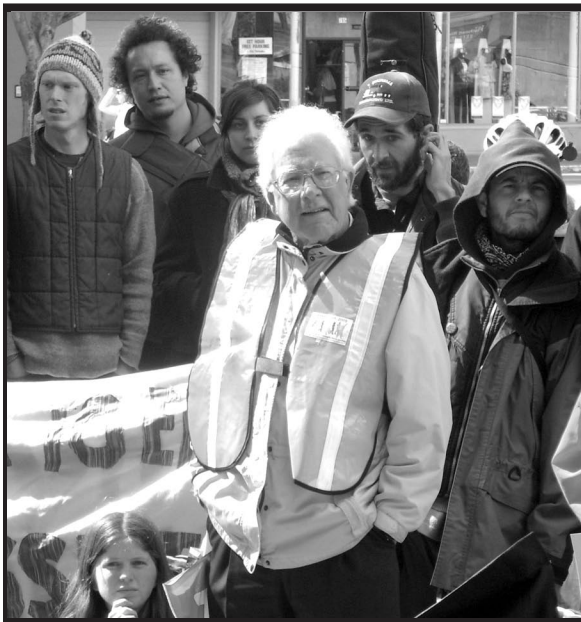
John alan Douglas
Vancouver, January 2010



FIND SOLIDARITY!

The grassroots
Committee to
End Homelessness
in Victoria
gathers on
Wednesdays 7 pm
at Silver Threads,
1740 Douglas St.

Everyone is welcome!



A note from Income Assistance:

EFFECTIVE
JUNE 1, 2010

IF YOU HAVE AN
OUTSTANDING
WARRANT YOU MAY
NOT BE ELIGIBLE
FOR INCOME
ASSISTANCE,
HARDSHIP
ASSISTANCE, OR
SUPPLEMENTS
UNTIL THE
WARRANT IS
RESOLVED.

THIS APPLIES TO
ARREST WARRANTS
FOR INDICTABLE
OFFENCES FROM
ANY JURISDICTION
IN CANADA AS
WELL AS ARREST
WARRANTS UNDER
THE IMMIGRATION
AND REFUGEE
PROTECTION ACT
(CANADA).

IF YOU HAVE ANY
QUESTIONS OR
REQUIRE MORE
INFORMATION,
PLEASE CONTACT
YOUR LOCAL
EMPLOYMENT
ASSISTANCE
WORKER OR CALL
THE MINISTRY
TOLL-FREE AT
1-866-866-0800.
AN INFORMATION
SHEET IS ALSO
AVAILABLE
FOR YOUR
INFORMATION.



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(the new white whale)

23 feet of American know-how
and insanity

4 doors, 8
cylinders
300 hp
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steel diesel dragon
thru the crowded city streets
like an ice skate on butter

like a feather down a lovers' back
tempting death

too afraid to die
just dumb enough to be killed
for a dream
i never believed in....

j fisher

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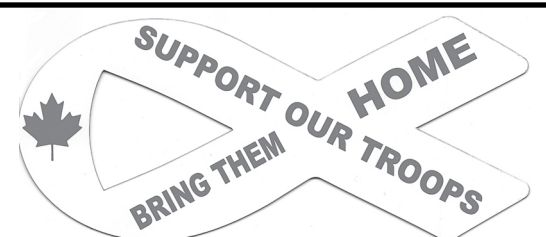
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who support us in
many and
diverse ways !

May money
from the
sale of this
newspaper
be used
for peace,
and pass
through
healing
hands.

WHERE YOUR \$\$\$\$\$ GOES



Vendors pay 50
cents for each
Street Newz .

Whatever you give
them is theirs to
keep.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Street Newz Revenue				
Paper Sales (from previous mth)	318.50	415.00	339.00	432.50
Calendar Sales	0.00	0.00	0.00	385.00
Donations	330.00	560.00	275.00	1330.00
Gifts (incl in-kind)	120.00	100.00	100.00	85.00
Co-ordinator's Contribution	346.87	205.85	354.41	77.84
Subscriptions	140.00	100.00	95.00	55.00
Bread & Roses Donation to SNZ	1000.00	1000.00	500.00	500.00
Total Street Newz Revenue	2255.37	2380.85	1663.41	3165.34
Street Newz Expenses				
Salaries	1000.00	1000.00	500.00	800.00
Paper & Printing Costs	549.15	540.75	540.75	453.60
Vendor Meeting	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Office expenses/travel etc	0.00	20.00	92.00	0.00
Postage	76.22	60.10	60.66	56.74
Ttl Street Newz Expenses	1665.37	1620.85	1193.41	1310.34
Street Newz	590.00	760.00	470.00	1855.00
Bread & Roses Revenue				
Grants (we're still hopeful)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Bread & Roses Revenue	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bread & Roses Expenses				
Bus Tickets (2 for 1)	40.50	40.50	40.50	40.50
Street Newz Donation	1000.00	1000.00	500.00	500.00
Ttl Bread & Roses Expenses	1040.50	1040.50	540.50	540.50
Bread & Roses	-1040.50	-1040.50	-540.50	-540.50
Consolidated Ttl (SNZ + B&R)	-450.50	-280.50	-70.50	1014.50
Bread & Roses Bank Balance	1368.98	849.66	723.10	1211.00

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Please return to Victoria Street Newz
1027 Pandora Ave, Vic BC, V8V 3P6 Thanks!